



July 28, 2014

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 196

Purpose: To release three updated conservation practices standards and their supporting documents to the Pennsylvania NRCS Field Office Technical Guide: Aquatic Organism Passage (396), Firebreak (394), and Multi-Story Cropping (379).

Background: Conservation practice standards and supporting documents for Aquatic Organism Passage (396) formally named Fish Passage in its last version released December 2006, Firebreak (394) released in November 2009 and Multi-Story Cropping (379) released at the same time have been revised to reflect current criteria as of July, 2014. In addition, two new documents, Firebreak Job Sheet and Practice Guide for Firebreaks, have been created.

Explanation: The Fish Passage Practice Standard and Checkout Document files have been deleted from the PA FOTG and replaced with the **newly named Aquatic Organism (396)** files. The standard, a new statement of work, and checkout document now all currently reflect the new name.

While Firebreak and Multi-Story Cropping practices may be unfamiliar to some staff right now, Firebreaks are important supporting practices when planning prescribed burning to manage grazing systems or wildlife lands set aside such as through CREP. Similarly, woodlot owners interested in non-timber forest products may utilize the Multi-Story Cropping Practice, especially in support of related CSP enhancement activities. Follow the current standard criteria for these practices.

Both practices have also had their **Statement of Works** updated. When working with Technical Service Providers through line item TA contract items or with affiliates as is more often the case to plan, design, install, and check out a practice, please use the deliverables in these statements of work to communicate the requirements needed to document implementation of the practice.

The new **Firebreak Job Sheet** communicates **Implementation Requirements** including installation specifications and an operation and maintenance plan to be followed for the lifespan of the practice after installation is certified as complete. The Job Sheet serves a dual purpose to also record **Checkout Data** and certify that practice implementation requirements for the extent completed have been met.

The new **Practice Guide for Firebreak** describes how to prepare plans and specifications for the practice. Use this guide to properly fill out the new Firebreak Job Sheet.

No checkout document for Multi-Story Cropping was developed as this practice is typically implemented as a CSP enhancement activity PLT05. Follow the documentation requirements found in the national activity sheet for this enhancement.

Access Instructions: The entire Pennsylvania Field Office Technical Guide can be accessed at the following website: <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

You may also access Section IV Table of Contents directly at the following we address:
<http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/toc.aspx?CatID=12487>

Denise Coleman
State Conservationist

